

REMARKS

The specification has been amended to claim priority from U.S. Application Serial No. 09/134,323, filed August 14, 1998, now U.S. Patent No. 6,241,734 (the '734 Patent). Robert M. Scribner and Mark A. Reiley are inventors common to the instant application and the '734 Patent and its progeny.

Claims 1-14 remain pending in the application. The claims are rejected in various combinations under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) based on Scribner et al. U.S. 6,241,734 (Scribner '734) in view of Lubeck et al. U.S. 5,100,390 (Lubeck '390) or Scribner '734 in view of Lubeck '390 and further in view of Stark U.S. 5,546,267. Applicant's claim of priority to the '734 Patent removes the '734 Patent as prior art as to the instant application. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that these rejections be withdrawn.

Reconsideration in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks and allowance of claims

Respectfully Submitted,

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